

CLAIMS:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for creating at least one targeted integrated image for delivery to a user, the method comprising:

determining content of potential interest to the user based on at least one user preference comprising content ordering habits of the user while the user is receiving a first image comprising a video file for viewing via digital cable television;

determining content previously ordered or viewed by the user;

in a queue of available barker advertisements, removing ~~unviewed~~ barker advertisements corresponding to the content previously ordered or viewed by the user;

selecting a second image comprising a barker advertising the content of potential interest to the user from advertising barkers remaining in the queue; and

combining the second image comprising the barker advertising the content of potential interest to the user with the first image to form an integrated image for delivery to the user; and

delivering the integrated image to the user.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein content ordering habits includes at least one of information indicating times at which the user previously viewed or ordered content, genres of content previously viewed or ordered by the user, characteristics of content previously viewed or ordered by the user, and menu selections made by the user.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining an identity of the user, wherein the content of potential interest to the user is determined based on an at least one user preference associated with the identity of the user.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: determining images available in the queue.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: marking the second image delivered to the user as having been delivered; and placing the marked image at the end of the queue, wherein the step of selecting selects images sequentially from the beginning of the queue.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first image includes at least a menu or a programming guide.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of determining is initiated in response to the user accessing the menu or programming guide.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of determining is performed based on menu or programming guide selections made by the user as the user navigates through the menu or programming guide.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining is initiated responsive to the user requesting the video content.
14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating the steps for creating at least one new integrated image for delivery to the user.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the steps are repeated as the user continues to request or receive images.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the steps are recursively repeated for delivering new integrated images for delivery to the user.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising compressing at least one of the first image or the second image to forming the integrated image.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of combining includes inserting the second image within the first image, wherein the first image is adapted to appear to the user to be paused.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the first image is adapted, for delivery to the user, to appear to be paused.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the first image is adapted, upon delivery to the user, to appear to be paused.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for creating at least one targeted integrated image for delivery to a user, the apparatus comprising:

a processor for determining content of potential interest to the user based on at least one user preference, prior to or during the user's request for a first image comprising a video file or while the user is receiving the first image;

determining content previously ordered or viewed by the user;

removing from a queue ~~unviewed~~ barker advertisements corresponding to the content previously viewed by the user; and

selecting a second image comprising a barker advertising the content of potential interest to the user from barker advertisements remaining in the queue, and wherein the processor determines the content of potential interest to the user that has not previously been viewed by the user; and

a combiner for combining the second image with the first image to form an integrated image for delivery to the user, and wherein the combiner inserts the second image within the first image.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the user preference includes information representing content viewing habits or content ordering habits of the user.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the information representing content viewing or content ordering habits includes at least one of information indicating times at which the user previously viewed or ordered content, genres of content previously viewed or ordered by the user, characteristics of content previously viewed or ordered by the user, and menu selections made by the user.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor determines content of potential interest to the user based on an at least one user preference associated with an identity of the user.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the first image or the third image is adapted to appear as a picture-in-picture display with the barker advertising the content of potential interest to the user presented as a first picture within a second picture of the video file.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor determines content previously ordered or viewed by the user, determines images available in the queue, and removes removing images related to the previously ordered or viewed content from the queue.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor marks the second image delivered to the user as having been delivered, places the marked image at the end of the queue, and selects images sequentially from the beginning of the queue.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor begins determining content of potential interest to the user responsive to the user requesting the video content.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor begins determining content of potential interest to the user as the user receives the video content.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor repeatedly determines and selects content of potential interest, and the combiner repeatedly combines the selected content with an image for creating at least one new integrated image for delivery to the user.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the at least one new integrated image is created as the user continues to request or receive images.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the at least one new integrated image is recursively created for delivery to the user.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the integrated image is configured to appear as a picture-in-picture display in accordance with predetermined rules.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the predetermined rules comprise presenting the barker advertising the content of potential interest to the user during an introduction of the video file.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the predetermined rules comprise presenting the barker advertising the content of potential interest to the user during credits of the video file.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the barker advertising the content of potential interest to the user has a first genre associated therewith, wherein the video file has a second genres associated therewith, wherein the determining content of potential interest to the user based on at least one user preference comprising content ordering habits of the user comprises selecting the first genre so as to be different from the second genre.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the integrated image is configured to appear as a picture-in-picture display with the barker advertising the content of potential interest to the user presented as a first picture within a second picture of the video file.